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THE ROLES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF  
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES





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THE ROLES AND ORGANIZATIONS OF  
PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL STATISTICAL AGENCIES



Prepared by:

George Dufour  
and  
Amelia Gomez

User Services Division  
Statistics Canada

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## INTRODUCTION

For each of the 12 provincial and territorial governments in Canada there is a central agency to gather, process and/or disseminate statistics. They are linked, directly or indirectly, as components in the national statistical system.

Separate articles describing these agencies were published over a 12 month period in the Statistics Canada publication Infomat and have been brought together here to provide a convenient reference source. The initial date of publication of each article is included to indicate the approximate time of its preparation.





## ALBERTA

(as published July 13, 1979)

As a central statistical agency, the Alberta Bureau of Statistics (ABS) is responsible for providing statistical information on economic and social conditions in the province and for generally promoting and co-ordinating plans for the collection and integration of statistics pertaining to Alberta. This mandate is given in the **The Statistics Bureau Act** which also empowers the Bureau to collect information from businesses and households and protects the confidentiality of individual responses to Bureau surveys.

The staff of 47 permanent employees is allocated to three sections:

- Statistical Production
- Statistical Development
- Information Services

Terms of reference can be stated broadly as data gathering, statistical series development and data dissemination.

The information services section is responsible for ensuring the effectiveness of the data dissemination activities of the Bureau. It answers approximately 90% of the requests received by the Bureau and serves as the focal point for the dissemination of statistical information within the provincial statistical system.

This includes:

- informing the user community of the variety of activities and services provided by the Bureau
- serving as the initial point of contact for users seeking such services
- co-ordinating Bureau efforts to ascertain user needs and to seek better ways to meet such needs
- working toward improving the quality and timeliness of response to statistical requirements within Alberta.

As part of its role, the section publishes the monthly and annual **Alberta Statistical Review**, the annual **Alberta Fact Sheet**, a periodic news letter, (**ABS NEWSTATS**), and a Users' Guide. The **Alberta Statistical Review** annual and monthly publication and the **Fact Sheet** provide an economic and demographic statistical overview of Alberta. **ABS NEWSTATS**

provides current information on activities in the statistical field such as announcements of advance data, new data series, forthcoming Bureau publications and other information of interest to the statistical community. The **Users' Guide** provides an overview of the Bureau's objectives, operation, publications and activities and advises users on how to acquire data from the Bureau.

To more efficiently handle census requests, the service has prepared and published 1976 community profiles for census divisions in Alberta and for all urban and rural municipalities. With respect to user needs, a user assessment survey was recently conducted and recommendations are currently being developed. A computerized information request system which analyses all requests received by the Bureau is also operational.

During 1978, the Alberta Bureau of Statistics responded to more than 5,000 requests for statistical information, an increase of almost 60% over 1977. Approximately one-half of all the requests originated within the government sector (primarily the Alberta Government), 30% from the private business sector, and the remainder from private individuals, the media, the academic community and others.

The statistical production section has the mandate to collect statistical data needed for the policy and planning activities of the public and private sectors in the province. A number of surveys are conducted, including major efforts in manufacturing (a joint survey with Statistics Canada), retail and service trade, and employee compensation and benefits. Publications are produced for each of these surveys.

In addition, the section is responsible for inventorying data files within the Alberta Government and for encouraging and facilitating the extraction of useful statistical data from such files. Technical statistical advice and expertise is provided for other data collection activities within the provincial government.

The statistical development section is responsible for the integration of existing social, demographic and economic statistics in order to develop comprehensive frameworks or models which can be used for policy analyses. The **Alberta Economic Accounts**, published annually, are prepared in this section, as are the Alberta input/output tables.

Population projections, at both the provincial and census division levels, are prepared and published. The Section also works on improving existing social data and developing new social data series. As the foundation for work in this latter area, an annual life concerns (quality of life) survey has been developed and implemented. The results from the first survey will be published later this summer.



In response to environmental factors, including the needs of more sophisticated data users, the Bureau of Statistics is concentrating on a number of particular areas.

Among these are:

- promoting the wider use of administrative data files for statistical purposes
- encouraging the use of sample surveys rather than censuses
- providing more technical and evaluative advice and assistance to Alberta Government departments
- developing a small area data program
- improving the quality of social statistics and seeking more effective methods of disseminating statistical data

As part of its dissemination activities, the Bureau is currently placing selected Alberta data series on the CANSIM data base and is investigating the feasibility of developing an Alberta Computerized Statistical Data Base. Several Bureau publications have been converted to a computerized format which allows the user to access the information directly from the data file.

For further information, contact the Information Services Section (403-427-3058, telex 037-2137), 21st Floor, Park Square, 10001 Bellamy Hill, Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 3B6.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA

(as published August 10, 1979)

The objective of the Central Statistics Bureau (CSB) is to satisfy the requirements of government, institutions, business and the public for information on the economic and social characteristics of the province and its regions. This is achieved through the utilization of existing data sources and the development of new kinds of statistical products (including forecasts) to meet the demand of program managers and policy makers. In addition, the Bureau provides technical statistical advice and services to government agencies.

Although there was some statistical activity previously, the present mandate of the Central Statistics Bureau derives from the British Columbia Statistics Act which was proclaimed in late 1977. The Act provides a mechanism for accessing data not previously available to government, including data collected and maintained by Statistics Canada. These access privileges are predicated upon a strict set of confidentiality safeguards, which constitute a core part of the Act.

### Organization and Staffing

The powers and responsibilities of the executive director, Dr. William P. McReynolds, are established in general terms by the Statistics Act. The Bureau, attached to the Ministry of Economic Development, is organized at present in three Divisions:

- Population and Social Statistics Division Director, Dr. F. Douglas Herman
- Economic and Business Statistics Division Director, Thomas G. Beynon
- Statistical Services and Intergration Division Director, Dr. Har B. Singh.

The staff of the Bureau have expertise in a wide range of subject matter and methodology areas including economics, finance, survey methods, statistical inference, data processing, psychometrics, sociology, demography, mathematical geography, data processing, simulation modelling, operations research and econometrics.

In addition to its own staff, from time to time the CSB has had on strength officials seconded to it from Statistics Canada. At present, Michael Issa and Garnet Picot are seconded to the Bureau from Statistics Canada under the framework of an executive interchange program. Concurrently, Har Singh is on a special assignment from CSB to Statistics Canada in Ottawa to play a leading role in the development of provincial trade data that are expected to be very valuable for a number of economic policy applications.



### Data Acquisition

The Bureau is making every effort to satisfy government data requirements without adding to the burden of response for individuals and businesses in the province. To this end, it is engaged in an active program of evaluating and using federal and provincial administrative records as sources of statistical information. A few specific examples include files of Health and Welfare Canada, the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission, B.C. Hydro and the Workers' Compensation Board. The Bureau is also enlarging its data base by negotiating access to key Statistics Canada micro records. Examples of recent agreements of this kind with Statistics Canada include the monthly survey of employment and payrolls and the annual Census of Manufactures.

### Data Dissemination

The Central Statistics Bureau provides data and consultation services to a variety of users in the public and private sectors. Its principal emphasis, however, is directed towards meeting the statistical needs of British Columbia government ministries and agencies with quick and flexible responses. The User Data Services Section under Gary Weir handles most routine requests, drawing upon expertise from other parts of the Bureau as required.

The Bureau has not to date placed a heavy emphasis on publications. Rather, most of its effort has been concentrated on developing other kinds of statistical products to improve responsiveness to questions posed by senior managers. In particular, data processing has been strongly emphasized with computers being used, for example, to store and access data bases, to set type for publications via a generalized composition program, to interface the internal capacities of word processors with external data banks for speedy report generation, to build policy models of the B.C. economy and its industrial sectors and to produce small area information for user-defined geographic regions. These new statistical products are critical in producing information in the form needed by decision makers in a timely manner. The Bureau's success in addressing policy from a statistical perspective is being recognized as government agencies are increasingly requesting diagnostic and advisory services relating to their particular policy concerns.

The Bureau is constantly working to enhance its capacity to answer special and complex requests. A continuing effort is also being made to identify analytical and developmental activities in government ministries in order to anticipate the types of demand it will face in future years. It is thus placing itself in a position where it can effectively satisfy both the present and future requirements for statistical information.

For further information, contact User Data Services, (604-387-1502), Toronto Dominion Bank Building, 3rd Floor, 1405 Douglas Street, Victoria, British Columbia, V8V 4R9.

## MANITOBA

(as published September 14, 1979)

The Manitoba Bureau of Statistics (MBS) was established by the Manitoba Statistics Act of 1971 with a mandate to collect, analyse and publish statistical data relating to provincial activities and conditions. This mandate includes assisting other government departments and agencies in the collection, compilation and publication of statistics.

The Bureau has a staff of 11 permanent employees to administer its projects and its data dissemination activities in accordance with its mandate.

Information requests form a significant portion of the Bureau's service function to both the public and private sectors. Although most requests are from other government agencies, requests are also processed from business firms and individuals. Services performed to meet information requests range from simple information retrieval to complex computer data extraction and analysis. As a routine service, labour force and CPI data are provided to user departments with same day release as the receipt from Statistics Canada. As a subscriber to the CANSIM information retrieval system, the Bureau extends the services of this facility to all government departments as well as private users.

As an additional mechanism to keep provincial departments and selected federal agencies informed of statistical surveys and activities at provincial and federal levels, the Bureau co-ordinates a Data Users Planning Committee. The Committee, which meets on an ad hoc basis, is chaired by MBS and is composed of departmental representatives from research or statistical areas. Among other activities, it provides a co-ordinating mechanism for federal-provincial statistical matters.

The main vehicle of dissemination for the Bureau is the **Manitoba Statistical Review**. The Review is published quarterly and is available to both the public and private sectors. It provides a compendium of economic, labour force, financial, social and governmental statistics derived from Statistics Canada, from other federal departments and from provincial sources.

Its major purpose is to provide researchers with useful and relevant time series statistics on Manitoba, in a single publication.

An inventory of administrative records and statistical files is being maintained by the Bureau to include statistical data originating from the administrative files of government departments and agencies. This inventory is helping to eliminate duplication of effort, to minimize the cost of future collection and to reduce paper and response burden for the private sector. It provides a comprehensive reference guide for users of statistical data and identifies the originating unit within the Manitoba government for various types of research data.



In addition, MBS has begun to index all statistical data on Manitoba, including the Bureau's own statistics and data from other sources such as Statistics Canada and other federal and provincial departments and agencies.

Through consultation services offered to other Manitoba government departments and agencies, the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics provides assistance in areas of design and implementation of surveys and the application of general statistical techniques for program planning and/or policy analysis.

A number of Manitoba community surveys are being conducted by MBS on behalf of the Department of Economic Development in order to forecast consumer needs and preferences and to assess the level of services within certain communities. Similarly, an accommodation occupancy survey of hotel, motel and cabin establishments is conducted to provide monthly occupancy rates. Processing and analysis services are provided by MBS for other departments and a quarterly bulletin is published for planning of travel promotion and marketing guidance to travel industry operators.

The Surveys and Data Acquisition Group is currently maintaining a business register databank acquired from Statistics Canada. This is a listing of all firms in Manitoba and is used to provide a sampling frame for provincial surveys.

The Census of Manufactures provides manufacturing data through a joint collection agreement with Statistics Canada and enables analysis of Manitoba's manufacturing sector on a regional and industrial level.

To assist in assessing demographic developments of interest to various departments, the Bureau has initiated the population and migration data base. From this base, population estimates are formulated for Manitoba, the eight official regions and major cities.

For further information on the Manitoba Bureau of Statistics, contact the Information Officer (204-944-2985), 614-155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 0V8.

## NEW BRUNSWICK

(as published October 19, 1979)

The Office of the Economic Advisor (OEA), as a branch of the Department of Finance, provides to the government of New Brunswick regular assessments of the current and anticipated state of the New Brunswick economy. In fulfilling this responsibility, OEA prepares for the Legislative Assembly an annual report, "The New Brunswick Economy", which contains this assessment along with a compendium of provincial economic statistics.

In addition, the Office of the Economic Advisor, under the guidelines of the 1970 Federal-Provincial Data Dissemination Program, was assigned the responsibility of becoming the provincial depository for Canadian Census data. By combining Census data with its previous concentration in the field of economic statistics, the Office of the Economic Advisor has also developed certain functions characteristic of a central statistical agency, in spite of the absence of provincial statistics legislation formalizing its role in the field of statistics.

### Purpose

As a central statistical agency, the primary purpose of the Office of the Economic Advisor is directed toward providing access to socio-economic information on New Brunswick to other government departments and agencies. Moreover, it is responsible for the presentation of statistical data and for the analysis of economic and demographic trends as well as providing assistance and advice to government departments and agencies relating to research requirements. As a statistical agency, OEA co-ordinates the collection and dissemination of current statistical information to all users in a form most suited to their needs.

### Publications

As part of its dissemination role, OEA publishes a series of regular publications, entitled the New Brunswick Socio-Economic Profiles. First published in 1974, in response to the increased demand for sub-provincial data, these profiles summarize the major social, economic and demographic characteristics of New Brunswick, its cities and its towns. Village and parish profiles are also prepared and made available upon request. OEA prepares a monthly series of economic indicators and a quarterly statistics report, each of which presents in tabular form the current status of economic activity within the province. These publications provide users, especially those responsible for economic policy and planning, with a current review of New Brunswick's economic and industrial performance.

### Inquiries Service

Furthermore, as a central agency, OEA answers verbal and written requests for statistical information from both the government and private sectors plus those from the academic community and private individuals.



During 1978, the Office of the Economic Advisor answered approximately 1,000 statistical requests, with 60% of all requests originating from the New Brunswick government sector and the remainder from other users. Finally, as part of its dissemination activities, the Office of the Economic Advisor makes available to users, upon request, access to Statistics Canada's CANSIM Data Base, as well as access to the 1971 and 1976 Census Summary Tapes.

### New Projects

In relation to statistical development efforts, the Office of the Economic Advisor, in conjunction with Statistics Canada, has created, for ease of reference, several new data bases. Initial efforts have concentrated on the development of historical data about New Brunswick's activities in the field of exports, manufacturing and construction. Each data base brings together information contained in several sources, thus providing users with a single reference to the principal statistics on each topic as well as a base for forecasting. Recent efforts have been centred on the development of methodologies for preparing current estimates of the provincial economic accounts and value added by industry, as well as preparing sub-provincial estimates of income, labour force activity and retail trade.

### Research

In addition to its dissemination and development activities, the Office of the Economic Advisor fulfills various research functions. OEA has undertaken special research projects and often provides necessary technical expertise to develop comprehensive frameworks or models which can be used for policy analysis. These special projects have included market studies, industrial profiles, and both regional and sector analysis.

As previously noted, New Brunswick does not have a Provincial Statistics Act. However, in view of the statistical collection and expertise developed in this area by the Office of the Economic Advisor, it is considered to be the central statistical agency for the province.

For further information, contact the Office of the Economic Advisor (506-453-2381), P.O. Box 6000, Fredericton, New Brunswick, E3B 5H1.

## NEWFOUNDLAND

(as published November 9, 1979)

The role of the Newfoundland Statistics Agency is to assist provincial departments and agencies with their statistical needs. Though the provincial government is the main client, assistance is also provided to federal departments and agencies, industry, universities and the general public.

### Functions of the Agency

In carrying out its role the Statistics Agency performs the following functions:

- co-ordinates the collection, processing and distribution of statistical information for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- assists provincial departments in the design of questionnaires, sample design, sample selection, coding, processing and analysis of data
- consults with departments when they are setting up or changing administrative files so that they may be of maximum benefit to Government
- keeps departments and agencies of Government aware of statistical activities within the Government
- receives copies of all publications of Statistics Canada and all statistical and economic reports written by or for the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
- obtains copies of all census publications, user summary tapes and documentation. It also processes provincial government requests for census information from publications, computer tapes and through direct contact with Statistics Canada
- provides timely economic indicators in the statistical Flasheet and the Labour Force Flasheet
- provides continuing data by updating the Historical Statistics of Newfoundland and Labrador and develops other series as data becomes available
- represents the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador at meetings on statistics.

The Statistics Agency has a permanent staff of nine persons. Five of these are statisticians and four are support staff. Each statistician disseminates data and provides advice on gathering and analyzing data in his areas of responsibility.



### Governing Statutes Delineate Responsibilities

To assist the agency in its functions a cabinet directive was issued in 1976 requiring all provincial government departments and agencies to consult with the Statistics Agency when undertaking surveys of more than 10 respondents or when implementing or changing administrative files. Based on this consultation, a newsletter is published three to four times a year giving information on projects being undertaken.

In 1978 a further step was taken when the Statistics Act was proclaimed and a statistics agency designated in the Cabinet Secretariat of the Executive Council. This Act gives the Agency the power to collect statistics, provides penalties for disclosure of information and allows for exchange of information with Statistics Canada.

### Publications Serve Users

To provide users with up-to-date information two monthly flasheets are issued. One of these flasheets contains labour force information and is issued on the day of Statistics Canada's Labour Force Survey release. The other - keyed to the release of the Consumer Price Index - contains information on the main economic indicators.

There are, as well, two other publications. One, the **Chartbook**, contains 28 charts and tables on the Newfoundland economy. The other -

**The Historical Statistics of Newfoundland and Labrador** - is a large volume containing over 150 tables on Newfoundland accompanied by descriptive notes and sources.

### Electronic Dissemination

A further capability is available through a computer terminal which provides a link to CANSIM (the Statistics Canada data base), ANSSIR (the Health and Welfare system) and Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services. As well as providing information, these systems offer the means to manipulate and analyze data.

For further information, contact Newfoundland Statistics Agency (709-737-2913), 3rd Floor, Confederation Building, St. John, Newfoundland, A1C 5T7.

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

(as published December 14, 1979)

### The Organization

The Northwest Territories Bureau of Statistics is a recently established unit within the Northwest Territories Government. Before its formation, responsibility for the central statistics agency function rested with the Statistics Section of the former Department of Planning and Program Evaluation.

The Bureau of Statistics is responsible for providing statistical information and analysis to assist the government to set priorities, to plan and to budget. This central accountability for statistics involves data collection and development as well as the interpretation and dissemination of statistical information required for planning and policy activities. Other aspects of the Bureau's responsibilities include the provision of consultative services to territorial government departments and representation of the government on statistical matters.

The Bureau staff - under the management of the territorial statistician, Dr. Ralph Joyce - includes three statistics professionals with backgrounds in a broad range of subject-matter and methodological areas. Subject-matter specialization is distributed among staff members while statistical analysis and applications remain a shared responsibility of all members acting as a team.

The statistics environment in the Northwest Territories provides a challenging and essential role for the Bureau. The lack of reliable historical series and the comparatively limited level of federal statistical services provided to the north has led the Bureau to undertake a program to develop a comprehensive base of demographic, economic and social statistics. During the past two years, the focus of statistical activity has been upon the development of accurate population information for the north. At present, the Bureau has shifted its focus to the economic and social areas with a particular emphasis upon indicators of economic activity and an economic forecasting capability.

### Data Collection and Development

The statistical information requirements of the Northwest Territories Government are being met through a program of data collection and development. A considerable part of this effort has involved the production of required statistics from administrative records maintained by the territorial government and by federal government departments and agencies. Due to the small and dispersed population of the Northwest Territories (about 46,000 persons living in more than 60 communities) and the need for statistical information with considerable geographic detail, an effort has been made to avoid the use of sample survey methodology.

Activity has included the preparation of community population figures, community estimates of age, sex and ethnicity, migration estimates and community income. Administrative records employed include health care records, social assistance files, student records, vital statistics, personal income, family allowance and old age security.

#### Data Dissemination

Although primary emphasis is placed upon internal government needs, the Bureau also provides statistical information to the public and industry. The scope of this dissemination activity ranges from relatively simple information retrieval to more sophisticated statistical analysis required for policy and planning activities. The data development emphasis of the Bureau of Statistics has limited its dissemination activities. Nevertheless, the Bureau does prepare and distribute a small set of publications. This list includes annual population figures, population projections, methodological reports, community age, sex and ethnicity estimates, summaries of community income, historical migration statistics and summary reports on information obtained from administrative records.

New work in the dissemination field includes the preparation of a comprehensive statistical abstract of the Northwest Territories - to be released in February 1980 - and a quarterly statistical publication.

For further information, contact Statistics Bureau (403-873-7147), Government of Northwest Territories, Yellowknife, Northwest Territories X1A 2L9.



## NOVA SCOTIA

(as published January 18, 1980)

The statistical Services Branch is part of the Development Strategy Division of the Nova Scotia Department of Development. The Branch is designated as the provincial statistical focal point under the Statistics Act, Chapter 18, Nova Scotia Statutes (1970-71), Section 4(1)(a and b). Responsibilities of the Branch include collection, interpretation, and dissemination of statistical information to government, the business community and the public at large.

### Functional Responsibilities

In fulfilling its legislative mandate and its role within the Department of Development, the functions of the Statistical Services Branch include:

- maintenance and development of an extensive statistical data base including the entire Statistics Canada publication series in either hard copy or microform, on-line access to CANSIM and other data banks and statistical files from numerous government and private sector sources
- collection, interpretation and dissemination of general purpose and specific inquiry statistical information
- provision of a general referral service for all types of statistical inquiries
- promotion of a wide range of statistical services to other departments, agencies, municipalities and the business community
- provision of liaison services between provincial government departments and Statistics Canada, concerning user needs and statistical developments
- preparation of abridged and comprehensive statistical reports on specific industrial sectors, product opportunities, individual industries, locational factors and various topical questions as required
- maintenance of comprehensive economic indicator tables for the province, with comparative data for the region and the nation
- provision of statistical market studies to aid in the identification of potential market opportunities within the province
- maintenance of a computerized information system on provincial manufacturers.

### Programs, Projects and Activities

A significant proportion of staff time is allotted to the servicing of statistical inquiries. Approximately one-third of these are census related while the remainder cover a wide range of topics from simple data provision to more detailed compilation and analysis.

To best serve the needs of statistics users, the Branch undertakes an extensive publication program. From an updated computerized data base, the Nova Scotia **Directory of Manufacturers** is published every second Year. The economic indicators provide the input for **Statistics Nova Scotia**, a monthly fact folder, and **Today's Economy**, an annual publication of time-series data.

Statistical county profiles for each of the province's eighteen counties were published early in 1979 and will be revised when new information warrants change. A Survey and Inventory of Commercial Space in the Halifax Metropolitan Area covers retail, office and warehouse space and is conducted each spring. A summary of construction activity provides the input for a listing of major projects by county. Other publications, such as **Halifax Metro** and **Industrial Cape Breton Fact Books**, have been prepared on an occasional basis.

Projections of population, households, families and labour force have been commissioned and published by the Branch. Geographically, these cover all counties, the Halifax metropolitan area and the province.

The Statistical Services Branch works closely with the local User Advisory Services office of Statistics Canada to provide a comprehensive range of statistical services to government, business and the general public of the province. The Statistics Act provides for the creation of a Nova Scotia Statistics Agency, but it is felt that the incorporation of the present Branch within the Department of Development serves the major functions of such an Agency while at the same time providing many statistical functions for the Department's activities.

For further information, contact Statistical Services Branch, Department of Development (902-424-5691), 8th Floor, 5151 George Street, P.O. Box 519, Halifax, Nova Scotia, B3J 2R7.

## ONTARIO

(as published February 8, 1980)

Central Statistical Services, a division of the Ministry of Treasury and Economics, is the central statistical agency of the Ontario government. The agency administers the Ontario Statistics Act and advises the Government on matters of statistical policy. It has authority to: collect, process and disseminate statistics; provide a statistical survey and advisory service; and supply economic accounts data and social statistics, including demographic projections and analyses.

The primary goal of Central Statistical Services is to ensure the provision of an efficient central data and analytical service in support of government policy formulation and program development. A corporate-type service, including demographic forecasts and analyses, economic accounts analyses, as well as liaison and co-ordination in statistical matters, is provided to the government as a whole. The cost of this service is funded through the normal estimates or budgetary process.

As well, CSS provides a highly customized general statistical service encompassing sample survey, data base development, dissemination of computerized data and advisory services of a technical nature valued in all at some half million dollars per annum. These customer tailored services are provided under contract to specific ministries in the government sector or to agencies in the private sector on a "retainer fee" or "fee for service" basis according to customer preference.

Central Statistical Services consists of the executive director's office and four operating units. In addition to managing the division, the executive director's office administers the Statistics Act, represents the province at the Federal-Provincial Council on Statistical Policy and ensures delivery of statistical services required by the Government.

The liaison and client services unit serves as a contact point for users seeking statistical services. It maintains a continuing liaison with users and generators of statistical data in the Ontario ministries, other government departments and agencies and in local governments. The unit manager chairs Ontario's Interministerial Statistical Committee which advises CSS and serves as an information forum for the ministries on statistical matters. This unit also co-ordinates Ontario's participation in federal-provincial statistical activities and issues the newsletter (ONSTAT News). ONSTAT News provides a forum for exchange of information in areas such as new statistical activity, organizational and staff changes, meetings and conferences and federal-provincial developments.

The staff of the surveys and advisory services unit provide technical advice on statistical methodology, survey design and data analysis. In addition, statisticians and interviewers conduct ad hoc surveys for clients. This unit also advises users on standardization and tabulation of administrative data.



The data management unit co-ordinates data dissemination activities for CSS. This unit is responsible for facilitating manual and computerized retrieval of Ontario data from the Census of Population and Housing and the Census of Manufactures. Listings of manufacturing establishments can also be obtained. Terminal access to information on CANSIM (the Statistics Canada machine-readable data base) and ANSSIR (the National Health and Welfare system) is available to users.

As well as meeting customers' requests for computerized and manually compiled data from the above sources, this unit, through its information services staff, answers numerous requests from government ministries, agencies and the public for statistical information on a wide range of subjects. These include population, prices, business statistics, labour force, mines and energy. In 1979 approximately 2,000 requests for information were processed.

An inventory of statistical files in the Ontario Government has been developed and is updated and published annually. **Ontario Statistics** (the statistical compendium on social and economic life in Ontario) is produced yearly, as is the publication **Consumption of Fuel and Electricity by Ontario Manufacturing Industries**.

The social and economic data unit develops demographic data and social statistics for government planning purposes as well as providing customized services to users.

Current estimates and projections of population and other demographic trends for Ontario, the counties and major municipalities are produced and published. The data on population, vital statistics and migration for Ontario are released in the **Monthly Demographic Bulletin**.

Specialized contract services are provided in numerous areas - e.g. estimates of population, mortality, fertility or immigration rates, and population projections. Analyses of social and economic trends among specific population groups or for selected geographic areas are carried out.

Detailed economic accounts data are available on an annual and quarterly basis and current estimates of GPP and GPE are released on a quarterly basis. These data are published in annual and periodic publications in the **Quarterly Economic Accounts Bulletin**.

Several computerized files are maintained by CSS and by Dateline System Limited. Detailed instructions for access are available from social and economic data staff members. Special tabulations (following strict rules of confidentiality) can be obtained at cost from the following Micro Data Tapes:

- Ministry of Revenue, enumeration tape
- Office of the Registrar General, vital statistics
- Ministry of Transportation and Communications, drivers licence movements
- Department of Manpower and Immigration, Ontario landed immigrants
- Statistics Canada, capital and expenditure survey
- Central Statistical Services, population projections by county, age and sex to 2001
- Central Statistical Services, Ontario Economic Accounts, quarterly 1947
  - present

For further information, write to Central Statistical Services, Ministry of Treasury and Economics, Queen's Park, Toronto, Ontario, M5S 2S3. To contact staff in the appropriate subject area as indicated, telephone: Executive Director (416-965-6566), Liaison and Client Services (416-965-4575), Surveys and Advisory Services (416-965-3792), Data Management (416-965-7078) or Social and Economic Data (416-965-2217).

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

(as published March 14, 1980)

The statistical functions of the government of Prince Edward Island have by and large been carried out by individual line departments.

In addition to these decentralized activities there has been a small centralized operation maintained for some years by the Department of Development, within its Planning Division.

### Transfer of Responsibility for Statistical Functions

As a result of the reorganization of the planning functions of the government - which were announced in October, 1979 - the central statistical function will be included among the responsibilities of the Economic and Statistics Branch of the Department of Finance in the new fiscal year.

The central statistical functions which have been carried out in the past and that will now be assumed by the Economics and Statistics Branch are focussed primarily on providing supporting data for social and economic planning. These functions include assisting federal and provincial government departments and other groups in obtaining statistics for Prince Edward Island.

### Source of Statistics Provided

To provide a comprehensive source of statistical data, the Economics and Statistics Branch receives all Statistics Canada publications, including Census publications. These are retained for reference by both provincial government staff and the general public.

The Branch is to assume responsibility for answering written and verbal requests for statistical data. There were approximately 150 such requests in 1979 of which 50% were for population data. Most requests for population data specified small areas such as census subdivisions or enumeration areas.

### Publications Available

In keeping with the established practice, the Economics and Statistics Branch will publish annually the Prince Edward Island Statistical Review. This publication provides users with relevant statistical information concerning selected key economic and social variables.

An additional source of data available from the Branch will be the complete collection of all statistical and economic reports written by or for the government.

For further information on Prince Edward Island statistics, contact John Palmer (902-892-5411), P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, C1A 7N8.



## QUÉBEC

(as published April 18, 1980)

The 1912 Act to establish the Québec Bureau of Statistics created an agency responsible for compiling and publishing statistics on Québec. Since that time, legislative revisions have endowed the Bureau with further powers, better adapted to present conditions. In particular, it has acquired authority to sign agreements with Statistics Canada and there has been some extension of the areas to which the principle of confidentiality is applied.

Under the existing terms of the Québec Bureau of Statistics Act (R.S.Q., c. B-8), the agency "shall (a) collect, compile, analyse and publish statistical information respecting any matter of provincial jurisdiction; (b) collaborate with the departments of the Government in gathering, compiling and publishing such information; (c) carry out statistical research".

Since 1976, the Bureau has also assumed responsibility for (a) ensuring, in co-operation with government agencies, the avoidance of duplication in collection of information; (b) facilitating integration of social and economic data relating to Québec and its geographic regions; (c) promoting and developing tools for quantitative analysis to meet general research requirements and particular requirements of public agencies; (d) providing government agencies with technical support in the use of statistical methods.

### Composed of Five Branches

The Québec Bureau of Statistics is a general agency of the Department of Industry, Trade and Tourism. It consists of five branches:

- Economic Statistics
- Social Statistics and Socio-Demographic Analysis
- Econometrics
- Statistical Production
- Dissemination and Technical Assistance

A further unit, the Secretariat, reports directly to the Office of the Director General of the Bureau.

### Economic Statistics Branch

The Economic Statistics Branch organizes all economic data pertaining to Québec, at both the provincial and the regional level, in order to be able to meet the needs first of Québec Government agencies and secondly of other public institutions or the private sector.

The Branch defines parameters of integration for activities of the various economic sectors and for the principal economic variables; collects data relevant to this task; analyses and publishes the latter; and replies to special requests for information.

The Business Enterprise Service is part of the Economic Statistics Branch and is responsible for organizing all information relating to Québec manufacturing companies, transport companies, the wholesale and retail trades, external trade and service industries. It publishes principal statistics relating to each of these fields as well as those relating to the agro-alimentary and dairy industries.

The Service also arranges circulation of these data in response to the many requests for information from the public, para-public and private sectors.

The Financial, Government and Non-Profit Institutions Service - also part of the Economic Statistics Branch - organizes information relating to the various levels of government (federal, provincial and local), non-profit institutions and households. For each of these sectors, data on sources of revenue, categories of expenditures and methods of financing must be compiled and integrated. This work also includes organization of information on finance companies and financing in general.

Lastly, the General Statistics Service of the Branch has the task of making available and applying information from any source on labour and manpower, the construction industry, investments and prices. The Service fulfills its mandate by publishing monthly information reports and annual publications in response to the many requests from government agencies and the general public and by counselling users in the choice of price indexes appropriate to their work.

#### Social Statistics and Socio-Demographic Analysis Branch

Two services make up the Social Statistics and Socio-Demographic Analysis Branch.

The Demographic Analysis and Forecasting Service chiefly provides demographic and extrapolated forecasts together with annual assessments of population to satisfy basic government needs for socio-demographic documentation, analysis and forecasting. Studies of births, marriages and deaths, mobility of households and families and of the entire active population are conducted to provide a more comprehensive data base for forecasting. This data base is then developed by methodological means as the most recent socio-demographic documentation is collected and updated. Lastly, special files are produced in response to occasional specific needs of various public agencies.

The **Social Statistics Service**, in conjunction with the public agencies concerned, organizes the entire public and para-public statistical system in the area of statistics related to individuals. More particularly, it compiles and updates a comprehensive table of supply and demand vis-à-vis social statistics in government taking stock of present and future needs and exploring sources of available statistics. It acts as official point of contact in the area of population and housing surveys and ensures that Québec - whether alone or in conjunction with the other Québec agencies concerned - is represented whenever federal-provincial consultation takes place.

This service arranges for circulation of results of the national Census and replies to more than 1,000 annual inquiries from a clientele distributed throughout the public, para-public and private sectors.

#### **Econometrics Branch**

The Econometrics Branch comprises three services.

The **Forecasting Studies Service** of the Econometrics Branch establishes a foundation for projections of economic variables, develops new tools for use in this field and adapts forecasts produced elsewhere for use in Québec. It replies to all requests for information about the most recent trends in the Québec economy and about its immediate future. Its forecasts are published periodically in report form.

The work of the **Structural Studies Service** and of the **Special Studies Service** is channelled to meet the specific needs of Québec government departments and agencies. An intersectorial model of Québec's economy and other tools for quantitative analysis are set up, developed and applied by these services.

#### **Statistical Production Branch**

The task of the Statistical Production Branch is to ensure that top-quality statistical data are readily available at minimum cost and in the format best suited to respondents and to the needs of those using such data. The Branch develops and maintains a network of systems and basic survey procedures. Special surveys are conducted as required to meet the needs of other services within the Bureau.

The **Data Collection and Processing Co-ordination Service** organizes and co-ordinates all surveys conducted by or on behalf of the Bureau and offers its services to public and para-public agencies.

#### **The Dissemination and Technical Assistance Branch**

The Dissemination and Technical Assistance Branch provides technical assistance adapted to users' needs in the fields of dissemination publication, information processing, statistical methods and standardization.



Its Dissemination Service provides a general information service complete with supporting documentation. This Service is also charged with directing statistical inquiries to the unit of the Bureau most likely to provide a satisfactory response. Almost 10,000 clients distributed approximately equally throughout the public, para-public and private sectors used these services in 1979 and almost 15,000 requests for information were processed. The Service is also responsible for ensuring the availability and circulation of statistical data available from CANSIM and from the Geographical code file.

The Publishing Division of this Service prepares and assembles documentation in order to produce synthesized publications such as the Québec Year Book, the Statistical Review and as required, various other publications.

Each year, this Division organizes publication of some one hundred and fifty titles as well as numerous questionnaires, forms, circulars and publicity folders. It is also responsible for conducting inquiries into the data user market.

The Division also performs certain tasks in the areas of promotion and public relations and arranges distribution of Bureau publications by supervising stock control and updating lists of users benefitting from free distribution.

The duties of the Information Processing Service are to design, activate, maintain and make available information processing systems meeting the Bureau's administrative needs.

The Methods Service provides the Bureau and other agencies with assistance in the fields of survey methodology, statistical analysis of data and standardization of codes and terminology.

For further information concerning the activities, programs and publications of the Québec Bureau of Statistics, please contact the Québec Bureau of Statistics Secretariat (418-643-5031), 710 Place d'Youville, Québec (Québec), G1R 4Y4. Alternatively, contact Bureau units at the following numbers (area code 418):

- Economic Statistics Branch (643-6839)
- Social Statistics and Socio-Demographic Analysis Branch (643-5207)
- Econometrics Branch (643-2621)
- Statistical Production Branch (643-5128)
- Dissemination and Technical Assistance Branch (643-5116)

The Bureau maintains a Montréal office at the following address:  
Québec Bureau of Statistics (514-873-4722), 1 Place Ville-Marie, Montréal (Québec), H3B 3Y1.

## SASKATCHEWAN

(as published May 9, 1980)

The Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics operates under the authority of The Statistics Act, 1972, and is charged with the responsibility of planning, promoting and developing integrated social and economic statistics relating to the province. As the statistical focal point, the Bureau represents the province on the Federal-Provincial Consultative Council on Statistical Policy. It is through this Council that the province plays an active role in the national statistical system.

As part of its mandate, the Bureau of Statistics is responsible for disseminating statistical information to government, the business community and to the public. To assist in this activity, the Bureau maintains a library of statistical data including Statistics Canada's catalogued publications and unpublished census data on microfilm, microfiche and magnetic tape. In addition, all statistical data published by Statistics Canada are available to the user community on microfiche.

### Publications

Each month the **Statistical Review** is published and forwarded to users across Canada and the United States. This publication contains up-to-date information on the various sectors of the Saskatchewan economy including mining and agriculture. Key economic indicators such as housing starts, building permits, labour force and employment data along with major components of the Consumer Price Index are also included in this publication.

On an annual basis, the Bureau publishes the **Saskatchewan Economic Review**. This document reviews the economic performance of the province over the past year and provides an analysis of the economy for the current and coming year. The **Review** also provides historical data relating to the economy of Saskatchewan. In addition, historical tables dating back to 1951 provide basic information on the province's gross domestic product including income and outlay accounts, the personal sector and the import and export sectors.

### Special Products and Services

Maps which can be used in conjunction with the 1971 and 1976 Censuses have also been produced by the Bureau for the province of Saskatchewan. These maps show the boundaries and population of enumeration areas within the province and have proven invaluable to persons undertaking small area studies using Census information. These maps, with other publications, are available upon request.

To provide a framework for economic statistics, the Bureau has developed a set of provincial economic accounts which include income and outlay accounts, a personal sector and import and export sectors. There are

approximately 2000 time series, dating back to 1951, associated with this framework. The outlay accounts and the import and export sectors are available in both current and constant dollars. Since provincial economic accounts have only recently been developed, the data have been labelled experimental until such time as the methodology - which is being developed co-operatively by the provinces and Statistics Canada - is stabilized.

To assist policy planners in both the public and private sectors, the Bureau produces, on an annual basis, a number of provincial population projections to the end of the century. These projections are by single years of age and include fertility and mortality assumptions along with a migration parameter.

For further information, contact the Saskatchewan Bureau of Statistics (306-565-6327), 3475 Albert Street, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4S 6X6.



## YUKON TERRITORY

(as published June 13, 1980)

Within the Government of Yukon, the primary responsibility for statistical work is concentrated in the Economic Research and Planning Unit of the Department of Tourism and Economic Development.

The unit's mandate covers a broad range of economic research and planning activity. In addition to the provision of a statistical service, in-house research and planning services are provided for government, the private sector and the general public. Service to the government is focused on providing analytical reports and proposals for action on matters pertaining to the Yukon's future, particularly in the areas of mining, energy and economic development.

### Activities in 1979

During 1979, studies were undertaken in a wide range of areas, including: impact of mining and the economy; population projections; feasibility studies on decentralizing vocational education in the territory; changing the organization of the Liquor Corporation; employment and unemployment; and economic indicators. The unit has also been actively involved in monitoring specific large-scale development projects and assessing their effect on population and labour force. The development and analytical tools, such as the Yukon Economic Impact Stimulation Model, has given the unit the capability of generating long-term development strategies for Yukon.

### Plans For 1980

Plans for 1980 include implementation of two Federal/Territorial agreements on energy. One, the Canada/Yukon agreement on an Energy Conservation Incentive Program for Commercial, Industrial and Institutional Establishments, is to encourage and assist energy conservation in business. The other, Canada/Yukon Renewable Energy and Energy Conservation Agreement, will encourage and assist energy-saving and demonstration projects.

The unit also hopes to launch a Business Development Assistance Program this year in an effort to diversify Yukon's resource-oriented economic base.

### Publications Available

Based on data obtained from statistical collection activities conducted by the Unit and from Statistics Canada, a number of regular statistical reports are published. These include: **The Yukon Rent Survey**, **The Yukon Price Survey**, **The Yukon Real Estate Survey**, **Yukon Labour Statistics**, and **The Yukon Economic Review**.

For further information or to obtain copies of statistical publications from the Government of Yukon, contact the Economic Research and Planning Unit (403-667-5470), P.O. Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Y1A 2C6.













